



# NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND TEACHER-TO-TEACHER INITIATIVE



*"Highly skilled teachers are the key to closing the achievement gap and leaving no child behind. The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative is helping teachers strengthen their skills by increasing their opportunities to engage in frequent professional development." – U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings*

The Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative helps teachers to improve student achievement by supporting their professional development.

- Research confirms that teachers are the single most important factor in **raising student achievement**. Highly qualified teachers can maximize every child's potential to meet high academic standards. Good teachers are essential to closing the achievement gap and ensuring that no child is left behind.
- The Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative was created **by teachers for teachers**. It provides convenient access to free professional development activities and keeps teachers informed of new policies and best practices vital to their craft.
- The Initiative **reaches out to States and school districts** so that teachers will have the opportunity to receive **credit** toward professional development requirements.
- The Initiative offers help anytime, anywhere through free **online digital workshops**, an eLearning website and popular **teacher-to-teacher workshops** held in cities from coast to coast.
- The Initiative honors teachers for their hard work and dedication through the **American Stars of Teaching** award.

The Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative is working and is being expanded so more teachers can take advantage.

- The Initiative has helped **more than 200,000 teachers** learn effective strategies for raising student achievement -- and is expected to reach teachers of **more than one million students** within the coming year.
- Today, **all 50 states and the District of Columbia** grant professional development credit for Teacher-to-Teacher participation.
- The next round of Teacher-to-Teacher summer workshops begins in **Atlanta, Georgia** in 2006.
- The number of free online digital courses is being **expanded to 32** by Sept. 2005, with more to come.
- The Initiative is partnering with TechNet, a group of technology companies, to create **urban teacher workshops** focusing on math, science and technology.

The Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative is engaging the nation's best teachers and principals to share strategies for raising student achievement.

- **NEW! Teacher-to-Teacher Training Corps:** The Corps invites effective teachers and practitioners experienced in **scientifically based instruction** to share what they've learned with other teachers and district officials. Corps members will host regional workshops and provide on-site technical assistance, e-mail mentoring, webcasts and personal follow-up visits to other educators. They will also become eligible to lead presentations at the Department's 2006 summer workshops. For information about applying, contact [www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative](http://www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative)
- **Teacher Workshops:** After an overwhelmingly positive response, the U.S. Department of Education hosted another series of **free summer workshops** in 2005 in Cincinnati, Minneapolis, San Jose, Phoenix, Tampa and Bethesda, Maryland. The sessions featured prominent teachers and principals sharing research-based practices they successfully applied in the classroom. Topics included research-based professional development, effective use of data, and teaching strategies to reach all students. Reading, mathematics, science, history and the arts were among the subjects covered.
- **eLearning:** Designed for both teachers and principals, eLearning models successful classroom **teaching strategies** and supports mastery of **academic content**, combined with classroom application, follow-up activities and an online assessment. It's simple: access the website ([www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative](http://www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative)), enroll, complete the course, take an assessment, complete the follow-up activities, and incorporate what you learn in the classroom. Sessions are developed from the highly successful summer and fall workshops.
- **"Teachers Ask the Secretary":** This easy-to-use interactive feature (<http://www.ed.gov/teachersask>) allows teachers to ask questions of the Secretary of Education and obtain answers on a wide range of issues, including Hurricane Katrina response, teacher quality, professional development, and meeting state academic standards. The page will be regularly updated to cover as many topics as possible.
- **"Hurricane Help for Schools":** The Department of Education has launched the "Hurricane Help for Schools" webpage ([www.ed.gov/katrina](http://www.ed.gov/katrina)) to serve as a nationwide clearinghouse addressing the needs of the affected children and schools and districts serving displaced students.
- **Teacher Updates:** Teachers may receive electronic updates from the Department of Education by signing up at [www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative](http://www.ed.gov/teacherinitiative). These "e-bytes" address topics such as federal education policy and professional development opportunities, and provide links to classroom teaching and learning aids.
- **Teacher Roundtables:** The Department has hosted numerous teacher roundtables on various subjects so Department officials could listen to and interact with educators.
- **American Stars:** American Stars in Teaching recognizes and honors superior teachers with a track record of improving student achievement, using innovative instructional strategies and making a difference in the lives of their students. Candidates may be nominated by anyone -- parents, principals, school officials or former students. Names of the 2005 awardees will be posted in October; nominations for 2006 open in January. To nominate a teacher or learn about previous awardees, go to <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/american-stars.html>